

Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending in the present application.

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Azuma (U.S. Patent No. 6,938,158). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Azuma. These rejections are defective because Azuma fails to disclose each and every feature of the claims.

Regarding independent claim 1, Azuma fails to disclose the use of **both** a proxy and a Single Sign On (SSO) server. On the contrary, Azuma's system utilizes a single user authentication proxy 2 (see, e.g., FIG. 1) located between a user terminal 1 and a web server 4. Further, Azuma's system does not provide the specific process flow that occurs between a user, proxy, SSO, and content server as set forth in independent claim 1. In addition, unlike the present invention in which subsequent user requests are forwarded directly from the proxy to the content server, and responses to the subsequent user requests are transmitted directly to the proxy by the content server, **without going through the SSO server**, user requests in Azuma always pass through and are processed by the user authentication proxy (see, e.g., FIGS. 3 and 4).

Accordingly, since Azuma fails to disclose each and every feature, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable. Applicants further

submit that independent claim 7 is allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

With respect to dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to the independent claims from which the claims depend. The dependent claims are believed to be allowable based on the above arguments, as well as for their own additional features.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 16, 2007

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